

16. *PROPORCELLIO QUADRISERIATUS* VERHOEFF :
AN ADDITION TO THE INDIAN FAUNA LIST

Proporcellio quadriseriatus Verhoeff is an isopod crustacean described by Verhoeff (1917). This species is a native of the east Mediterranean region: European Turkey (Bebek, near Istanbul), Lebanon, Israel, Libya (Cyrenaica). But it seems to be capable of transportation by man, and of surviving, at least for some time, in other parts of the world. Specimens of this species collected from Pontailac, near Royan in the west of France, are present in the Adrien Dollfus Collection (Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris). This species has also been found in abundance in the greenhouses of the Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas (Geiser 1933, Arcangeli 1934, Van Name 1936).

It was first found in Bhubaneswar in great numbers under some straw on an exposed terrace in the Orissa Veterinary College. This straw had obviously been dumped some time previously as it had generated enough humus to support a few small angiosperms. The isopod species has subsequently been found in three other localities in urban Bhubaneswar both several kilometres distant from the first and from each other, and also exposed to the weather. All colonies were found during the rainy season. Adults were not found in the Orissa Veterinary College locality in December but reappeared in July 1964. This is the first record of this species in India. No doubt, it has been transported into India by man and, judging from the fact that it has been found in four different places in Bhubaneswar, it cannot be a very recent importation.

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